Power Supply position in Rural Areas in Punjab

2750. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the power supply posi tion in Punjab;

(to) whether Government are aware that power-supply position is very bad in rural areas especially in agri-cultural sector in Punjab;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to (improve the situ-ation; and

(d) whether the land to be irriga-ted will have enough water with the number of tubewells setup in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The details of power supply position in Punjab during April, 1995—Jan-uary, 1994 is given below—

Period April, 1993—January, 1994

	(Figures in MU net)
Requirement . . .	16155
Availability . . .	15600
Shortage	555
%age	3.4
Northern Region % shortage .	7.1
All India shortage . .	7.4

Agricultural consumers were supp-lied 13 hrs.day power supply.

(c) In order to make more power available in rural areas which are predominantly agricultural, instruc-tions have been issued from time to time to give minimum 8 hrs\day sup-ply to agrficultural consumers. Va-rious other measures being taken to improve the availability of power in Punjab include expediting commis-sioning of new generating capacity implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing capacity, reduction in transmission and distribution losses,, implementation of demend manage-ment etc.

(d) According to Ground Water Bord, the estimated ground water potential of Punjab tin terms of elee-trict pumsets is 7 lakhs. Up to the end of January, 1994, 6,60,443 pump-sets stand electrified in the States.

Fly-ash Discharge from thermal power Plants

2751. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ther-mal Power Plants in the country often complain of supply of sub-stan-dard coal which leads to more dis-charge of waste-ash than the stan-dard; coal;

(b) if so, what is the percentage or waste-ash discharged by power plants per tonne standard coal;

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure the supply of stan-dard coal to thermal power plants;

(d) how much land has been cover-ed under this waste-ash in various power-plants; and

(e) what steps Government hav taken to minimise land wastage due to such ash-dumping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: (a) There are/have been complaints of receiving lower grade of coals than the design grade coal by Power Sta-tions. The concept of standard coal